

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY  
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
25 SHATTUCK STREET  
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

December 1, 1958

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
University of Wisconsin  
College of Medicine  
Department of Medical Genetics - Genetics Building  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I need hardly tell you how successful your lecture was and how much we enjoyed having you here. While I still don't favor the cell-selection hypothesis for antibody formation, you certainly presented a most provocative synthesis of facts and interpretation - and I am using the word "provocative" in a most favorable sense.

The New England Journal of Medicine wonders whether you would care to publish the lecture there, since it included a good deal of material of medical interest. They have a much broader circulation than you might expect for a journal with a provincial title. I imagine you would prefer to find a less medical outlet, but I told them I would ask you in any case.

I forgot to mention that I had hoped to have an astronomer at our home when you were there to stir up a discussion of your recent interest in a field that is beginning to dominate the toy market. Unfortunately both Donald Menzel and Fred Whipple were out of town.

To get down to more serious business: I have a graduate student, Loretta Lambert, who is investigating some aspects of DAP deprivation and trying to find why DAP-less spheroplasts are much tougher than penicillin-induced ones. It turns out that if one slows growth sufficiently (e.g. with a sulfonamide) mutant 173-25 makes normal cell wall, and the first chemical analyses indicate that it is making DAP. The simplest interpretation would be that this is a leaky mutant; but an independently isolated DAP auxotroph behaved identically. If you have kept the DAP auxotrophs that you isolated a while ago I would appreciate slants of them to see whether this is a general problem. I presume yours would be derived from the K<sub>12</sub> strain of E. coli.

With warmest greetings to you and Esther,

*Bernice*

Bernard D. Davis

*Sent.*

1. Thanks very much. The picture in the Boston paper was a beaut! Could you organize a couple of prints
2. Am submitting to Science, with note that was a Mueller lecture. OK?
- Would NEJM want to reprint? 3. Jack St. Clair will send. I'm off to Stockholm.
- Bestish Josh.*